

AMENDMENTS

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. (Currently amended) A method for detecting endotoxin, comprising the steps:
 - a) incubating a sample with ~~[[a]]~~an isolated bacteriophage tail protein, and
 - b) detecting endotoxin bonded to bacteriophage tail proteins.
2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising after step a) and prior to step b) the additional step of:
 - a') separating ~~the~~-bacteriophage tail protein-endotoxin complexes from the sample.
3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein detection comprises spectroscopic methods.
4. (Currently amended) A method for removing endotoxin from a sample, comprising the steps:
 - a) incubating a sample with or bringing a sample in contact with isolated bacteriophage tail proteins which are immobilised on a permanent carrier, non-specifically or directed,
 - b) separating ~~the~~-bacteriophage tail protein-endotoxin complex from the sample.
5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein steps a) and b) are implemented in a chromatography column throughflow method.
6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the permanent carrier comprises filtration media, glass particles, magnetic particles, centrifugation materials, sedimentation materials or filling materials for chromatography columns.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, the bacteriophage tail proteins being immobilised on the permanent carrier via coupling groups.
8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 7, the coupling group being a lectin, receptor or anticalin.
9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the coupling group comprises streptavidin or avidin and the bacteriophage tail proteins ~~[[is]]~~are coupled with biotin or a Strep-tag.
10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4, the bacteriophage tail proteins ~~being~~are immobilised on the permanent carrier covalently via chemical bonds.
11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the bacteriophage tail protein comprises a Strep-tag or a His-tag.
12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the tag comprises an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 5, 6 or 7.
13. (Currently amended) The method according claim 11, wherein the p12 protein of the phage T4 is used as the bacteriophage tail protein.
14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the Ca^{2+} concentration of the incubation comprises 0.1 μM to 10 mM and the Mg^{2+} concentration comprises 0.1 μM to 10 mM.
15. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~one of the~~ claim 1, marked endotoxin being displaced from the bond with ~~[[a]]~~the bacteriophage tail protein and the marked endotoxin being subsequently detected.
16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the bacteriophage tail protein comprises a Strep-tag or a His-tag.
17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the tag comprises an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 5, 6 or 7.

18. (Currently amended) The method according claim 16, wherein the p12 protein of the phage T4 being used as the bacteriophage tail protein.